

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Rural Production, 1948-49

This Bulletin repeats the principal statistics relating to cereals (some details slightly amended) and livestock recently published in Bulletins 7 and 12 and gives data concerning other crops, exports, manures used, implements, employment, etc. some items being provisional. Particulars of varieties of wheat barley and oats are published in Bulletin 14.

In the various tables in this bulletin details for 1948/49 are compared with those of the previous 2 years and with the pre-war year 1938/39.

Apart from the comparisons shown in the tables, it is noted that there were three distinct phases in rural activities during the 20 years to 1946. During the few years prior to 1930, the acreage under wheat for grain had increased very rapidly and reached the maximum acreage in that year while the numbers of sheep and cattle had decreased. The second phase was from 1930-1943, when there were substantial increases in the flocks and herds and in the areas of many other crops but decreases in the wheat areas, particularly from 1930 to 1943 when there were shortages of superphosphate and manpower and also controlled planting. The third phase was from 1943 to 1946 with the reversed trend of increased wheat acreages and decreased numbers of sheep and cattle - drought losses being very severe. The present tendency is for sheep and cattle numbers to be increasing after the drought with cereal areas generally decreasing slightly, the decrease for wheat being greater than the increases for barley and oats.

Comparing the season 1948-49 with 1930-31, it is noted that there have been largely decreased acreages for wheat and hay but increases for barley, oats, rye, green fodder, peas, lucerne and clover seed, vines, potatoes and other vegetables, chicory and canary seed. There have also been new crops such as flax, licorice, herbs, blue boiler peas, vegetable seeds, mustard seed, linseed, safflower and sunflower seeds, etc. Several of the new crops and some of those with increased acreages during the war have decreased again since. During the same period there were increases of sheep and cattle but decreases in horses and pigs.

The decrease in hay and also in other crop areas would be associated with the decrease in horse numbers as would also the increase in tractor numbers. There were increased areas of pastures top-dressed and also of crops grown for green fodder, which would be associated with the increased numbers of sheep and cattle.

I AREAS UNDER CROP

Particulars	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Wheat for Grain	3,080,401	2,518,948	2,374,873	2,063,034
Barley for Grain	457,039	502,005	562,405	697,751
Oats for Grain	266,842	252,325	308,783	286,540
Rye for Grain	5,273	21,753	25,029	41,085
Peas - Field	16,570	11,371	13,252	15,280
Lucerne, Clover etc. Seed	2,342	19,855	20,119	16,482
Flax	4	2,599	3,544	2,690
Linseed	-	-	177	959
Hay	519,309	329,307	296,261	234,292
Green Fodder	276,021	122,221	142,051	291,688
Vines Wine	36,457	b 44,245	b 42,843	b 46,929
Drying, Table	21,563	b 13,976	b 16,042	b 12,877
Orchards	28,943	28,126	28,338	29,932
Vegetables - Potatoes	4,290	6,191	6,202	5,860
Other Domestic	5,446	10,092	11,141	10,468
Nurseries	177	120	98	156
Chicory	31	66	93	86
Canary Seed	3,076	95	58	84
Mustard Seed	-	993	342	110
Other (a)	306	15	,204	121
Total Crops	4,724,090	3,884,459	3,851,855	3,756,424

(a) Includes Vegetable Seeds, Herbs, Licorice, Maize, etc.

(b) Grapes from areas normally used for drying were sent to distilleries.

Vegetables for 1948-49 (1947/48) include Green Peas 4,908 (5,401) Turnips and Swedes 443 (452), Carrots 308, (337), Onions 498 (583) Pumpkins Triambles etc. 684 (639), Tomatoes 757 (879), Cabbages 407 (422) Cauliflowers 539 (501), French Beans 375 (365), Beetroot 168 (154), Lettuce 303 (300), Celery 338 (357), Blue Boiler Peas 40 (70) acres.

II YIELDS OF CROPS

Particulars		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Wheat	Bush.	31,674,418	27,906,001	32,524,422	26,136,346
Barley	"	7,541,090	8,424,061	15,363,461	12,103,446
Oats	"	2,401,128	2,780,364	5,394,261	2,643,419
Rye	"	18,469	69,754	109,950	258,655
Peas - Field	"	96,329	121,557	232,822	168,187
Hay	Tons	585,554	432,955	443,659	311,997
Seeds (Clover, etc.)	Cwt.	2,967	14,910	21,439	14,362
Potatoes	Tons	18,487	29,212	34,181	33,054
Onions	"	3,892	4,774	5,356	4,971
Tomatoes	Bush.	226,691	302,078	294,356	338,383
Green Peas	"	97,918	182,231	244,668	224,640
Carrots	Tons	1,117	2,883	2,937	2,757
Wine	Gall	11,147,046	25,422,474	26,000,357	N.A.
Currants	Cwt.	191,381	55,937	133,641	125,001
Sultanas	"	192,926	127,695	205,734	122,086
Raisins	"	40,212	37,226	21,425	14,500
Apples	Bush.	808,020	717,811	989,440	814,300
Apricots	"	343,569	461,233	461,784	459,369
Peaches	"	149,602	118,500	189,177	157,093
Pears	"	195,995	276,781	191,947	310,860
Plums, Prunes	"	134,030	114,967	145,142	144,528
Oranges	"	815,460	818,220	925,995	1,177,889
Lemons	"	55,862	37,832	56,187	54,240
Almonds	Cwt.	9,994	9,352	12,270	13,874

YIELDS PER ACRE

Wheat	Bush.	10.28	11.08	13.70	12.67
Barley	"	16.50	16.78	27.32	17.35
Oats	"	9.00	11.01	17.47	9.23
Hay	Tons	1.13	1.31	1.50	1.33
April-Nov. Rain	Inch	10.00	10.13	13.93	11.73

Other Vegetable Yields for 1948-49 (1947-48) included - Parsnips 890 (843) tons, Swedes and Turnips 2,888 (2,620) tons; Beetroot 1,346 (1,343) tons; Pumpkins, Triambles etc. 4,081 (3,727) tons; French Beans 77,699 (63,668) bushels; Broad Beans 5,795 (7,300) bushels, Cauliflowers 188,732 (162,135) dozen; Cabbages 188,697 (188,840) dozen, Lettuce 161,357 (162,507) cases; Celery 185,005 (177,590) crates; Silver Beet 14,729 (18,356) dozen bunches.

Other Fruit yields for 1948-49 (1947-48) included cherries 57,943 (65,871) Figs 19,143 (36,790), Nectarines 27,158 (26,221) Grape Fruit 24,449 (19,099), Quinces 26,046 (26,240), Loquats 2,221 (2,399) bushels, Walnuts 652 (600) cwt.

Berry Fruits were:- Raspberries 479 (841) Gooseberries 806 (719) Strawberries 1,082 (1,305), Black currants 30 (66), Red currants 22 (24), Loganberries 88 (94), Blackberries 309 (293) cwt.

Oranges were specified as Naval 798,893 (667,167) Valencia 289,574 (179,391) Seville and Poorman 9,656 (8,311) Mandarins 28,229 (25,119). Other seeded types 51,537 (46,007) bushels.

Pears were Canning 227,719 (139,230), Other 83,141 (52,717) bushels. Peaches were Canning 68,925 (88,868), Other 88,168 (100,309) bushels.

Plums were 54,744 (69,331) and prunes 89,784 (75,811) bushels.

RECORD YIELDS. Records have been as follosw:- Wheat 1931-32 48,093,102 bushels, Barley 1947/48 15,363,461 bushels, Oats 1947-48 5,394,261 bushels, Wine 1947-48 26,000,337 gallons, Currants 1943-44 209,140 cwt. Sultanas 1943-44 333,300 cwt, Raisins 1940-41 89,557 cwt. Apples 1940-41 1,750,000 bushels, Oranges 1948-49 1,177,889 bushels, Pears 1948-49 310,860 bushels, Almonds 1948/49 13,874 cwts, Apricots 1943-44 551,734 bushels.

III OVERSEA EXPORTS (Years ended June)

Products		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Barley	Bush	2,248,212	2,096,668	7,923,702	8,461,098
Wheat	Bush.	18,486,303	3,973,043	9,697,821	16,335,532
Flour	Tons	86,678	142,423	131,061	147,254
Butter	lb.	7,385,564	5,969,371	7,205,794	6,779,732
Cheese	lb.	12,907,683	16,624,118	15,899,156	16,204,409
Pork, bacon	lb.	466,462	2,408,724	1,121,898	959,331
Mutton	carc.	3,299	30,444	22,324	99,791
Lamb	carc.	667,248	322,422	400,072	520,077
Wool (as greasy)	lb.	87,272,802	92,983,000	92,318,000	115,901,030
Currants, raisins	lb.	42,692,777	13,212,916	23,268,975	21,022,369
Tree fruits - fresh, dried, etc.	£	275,074	262,810	411,209	413,213
Eggs	£	98,911	766,925	861,614	814,786
Wine	gall.	3,440,509	2,216,289	2,243,003	1,527,238

IV MANURE USED

Particulars		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Crops manured	Acres	4,281,419	3,376,513	3,377,126	3,279,431
Manure used	Tons	179,118	139,532	152,357	156,750
Cropped area manured	%	90.6	86.9	87.8	87.3
Manure per acre	lbs.	93.7	92.6	101.1	107.1
Pastures manured	Acres	1,095,120	1,112,130	1,390,858	1,740,774
Manure used	Tons	56,325	54,684	71,896	93,357
Manure per acre	lbs.	115.2	110.1	115.8	120.1

The quantity of manure is that used for producing the crops grown in the seasons stated.

The proportionally lesser acreage under wheat had had a tendency to increase the figures for average lbs. used per acre on crops, 83.3 in 1930-31 to 93.7 in 1938-39, but the shortage in available supplies had caused a decrease to 71.9 lbs. in 1943-44 but it has increased again to 107.1 lbs. for 1948-49. The percentage of cropped land manured also fell from 90.6% in 1938-39 to 69.8% in 1943-44 and increased to 87.8% for 1947-48 and 87.3 for 1948-49. The shortage had also been the cause of lesser acreages topdressed with smaller dressings per acre from 1938-39 to 1943-44, but with substantial increases the last four years. Associated with the subject of topdressed pastures, it is noted that 117,344 acres of lucerne and 723,557 acres of clover and grasses other than native grasses were grazed during the year, apart from lucerne, clover, etc. harvested for seed or hay.

Particulars re fertilisers used for 1948-49 were:-

Crop	Area Manured	Super phosphate	Other Fertilisers	Total per acre.
	Acres	Tons	Tons	Lbs.
Wheat for Grain	1,988,129	85,743	46	96.66
Other Cereals, Hay	1,226,511	54,846	95	100.34
Vegetables	12,870	1,982	3,755	998.51
Fruits, Vines	49,606	3,483	6,631	456.71
Other Crops	2,315	138	31	163.52
Total Crops	3,279,431	146,192	10,558	107.07
Pastures	1,740,774	92,980	377	120.13
Grand Total	5,020,205	239,172	10,935	111.60

ENSILAGE

		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Quantity made	Tons	6,086	4,739	6,531	5,793
Ensilage Stocks					
March	Tons	N.A.	2,658	5,265	4,544

VI LIVESTOCK ETC.

Sheep	No.	9,936,586	7,958,618	9,055,237	9,365,713
Cattle- Dairying	"	165,110	186,920	196,739	203,479
Other	"	153,787	237,060	248,548	257,607
Horses	"	195,834	109,274	100,619	940,071
Pigs	"	71,292	134,033	100,343	71,427
Ewes Mated	"	4,202,848	3,748,453	4,090,231	4,250,094
Lambs Marked	"	3,077,634	2,837,308	3,099,436	2,967,327
Wool Production	Lbs.	102,888,121	93,019,598	103,675,935	107,500,000
Butter made	"	20,716,584	22,043,426	21,537,405	20,800,000
Cheese made	"	18,457,598	28,601,047	25,827,102	26,000,000
Milk production	Galls	72,500,000	93,950,000	92,500,000	91,500,000
Bacon and Ham	Lbs.	5,987,363	11,354,857	10,940,709	8,750,000
Slaughtering		1938	1946	1947	1948
Sheep, Lambs	No.	1,588,507	1,661,801	1,665,355	2,010,611
Cattle, Calves	"	167,451	146,196	147,577	189,255
Pigs	"	150,369	158,856	175,977	150,161

Drought losses in the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 had reduced stock numbers considerably but sheep and cattle both recorded substantial increases during the past three seasons. The sheep total of 9,365,713 represents an increase of 2,579,175 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year of 1946 though still 1,004,852 less than the record pre-drought total of 10,370,565 for 1943. The cattle total of 461,086 is an increase of 15,799 on the record total of the previous year and of 86,990 on the drought figure of 374,096 in 1946. The horse total is less than half the number in 1936 and is the lowest since 1874. The pig total is the lowest since 1938 and has dropped from 186,007 to 71,427 in 5 years.

VII. PERSONS ENGAGED PERMENTLY

Particulars		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Males	No.	41,421	38,128	38,067	38,109
Females	No.	2,942	4,974	5,823	5,462
Persons	No.	44,363	43,102	43,890	43,571

Particulars have been collected under the following headings.

		Occupiers Lessees, etc.		Unpaid Relatives		Paid Employees	
		1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948
Males	No.	27,625	27,225	2,113	2,423	8,371	8,419
Females	"	3,901	4,089	795	916	766	818

In 1940-41 particulars were collected showing how principally engaged:-

		Dultivating	Dairying	Pastoral	Total
Males	No.	26,487	4,373	7,797	38,657
Females	No.	414	2,334	79	2,827

VIII. MACHINERY, IMPLEMENTS

		1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Tractors	No.	5,969	9,456	9,664	11,271
Engines (stationary)	"	16,841	21,121		
Ploughs	"	30,609	33,379		
Cultivators, etc.	"	18,923	25,344	Not available	Not available
Harrows (leaves)	"	105,977	104,614		
Grain Drills	"	19,203	18,074		
Binders	"	10,632	9,582		
Headers, Strippers, etc."	"	N.A.	14,966		
Milking Machines	"	684	2,839	3,238	3,665
Shearing Machines	"	N.A.	4,306	4,932	5,817

Details for 1948-49 were as follows:-

Tractors. Crawler or track type 2,340, Rubber tyred 7,282, Steel 1,609.
Milking Machines. Unit size 1 and unspecified - 195, 2 - 1,894;
3 - 1,086, 4 - 388, 5 - 51, 6 - 46, 8 and over - 5, Total 3,665.
Shearing Machines as per number of stands, 1 and unspecified - 1,810
2 - 3,085, 3 - 507, 4 - 199, 5 - 71, 6 - 67, All other - 78. Total 5,817

Particulars for other machinery were not collected for 1948-49, but details for 1946-47 were as follows:-

Ploughs. Single Furrow 12,571, Double furrow 20,808.
Cultivators. Tandem disc. 4,103, Other disc 2,892, Spring tooth 6,527
Rigid Tine 6,439, Rotary hoes 752, Scarifiers 2,422, Other 2,209.
Grain Drills. Combine type 12,178. Other types 5,896.
Fertiliser distributors and broadcasters - 2,935.
Windmills. 24,924, Chaff Cutters 12,023, Mowers 4,842, Hay Rakes 7,207,
Hay Presses and Balers 654, Spraying Plants (power driven) 1,275,
Fruit Graders 311. Potato Diggers 299.
Motor trucks, utilities or lorries 12,899.

Particulars have not been collected in recent years, but in 1940-41 there were reported to have been 19,957 separators, 6,015 winnowers, 6,720 harvesters, 7,024 strippers and 5,604 reaper threshers.

IX BEEKEEPING

During 1948-49 there was the record production of 10,906,372 lbs. of honey and of 140,384 lbs. of beeswax. Allowing for alternating good and bad seasons, it can be said that the production in recent years is practically 3 times greater than 10 years previously. There were 1,120 beekeepers with 93,634 productive and 15,738 unproductive hives.

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

22nd September, 1949.